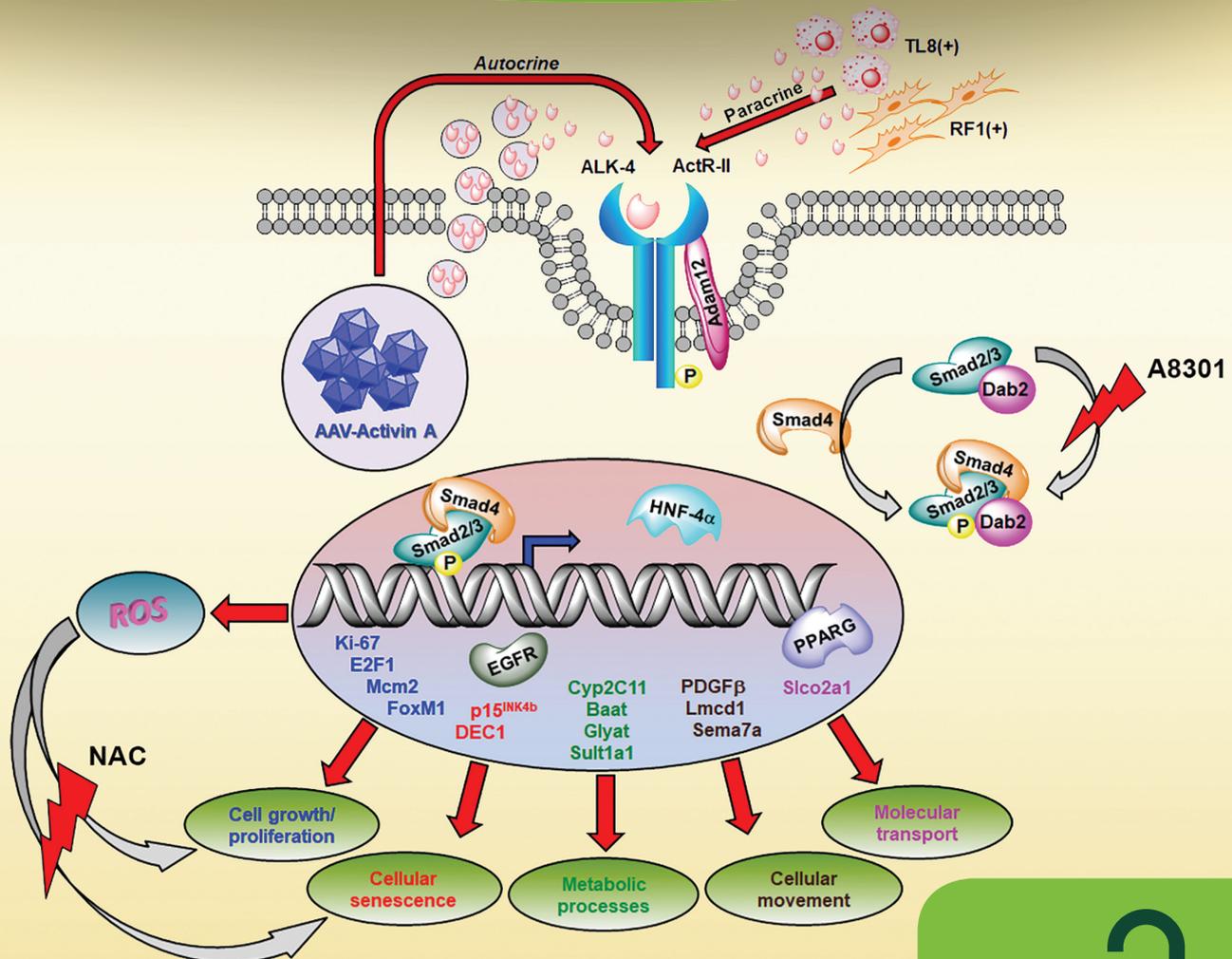


# HEPATOLOGY COMMUNICATIONS

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FOR THE STUDY OF LIVER DISEASES



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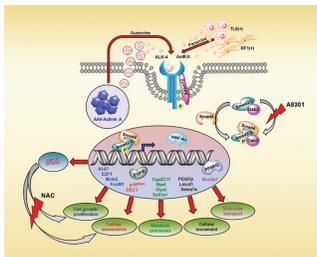
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➤ **Cover Figure:** Haridoss et al. (page 865). Determining the general contribution of activin A signaling to the hepatocyte phenotype *in vitro*. We established two rat cell lines (RF1, TL8) carrying the gene for the activin  $\beta A$  subunit to secrete bioactive activin A. To evaluate paracrine or autocrine activin A-stimulated effects mediated through Smad2/3 signaling, hepatocytes were cocultured with RF1 or

TL8 cells or transduced with an AAV vector carrying the activin  $\beta A$  subunit, which led to strikingly altered gene expression. Identified by microarray analyses, among the main molecular and cellular functions are cellular growth/proliferation, metabolism, and molecular transport. The top-ranked IPA-generated networks of gene connectivity consist of up/down-regulated focus molecules, which exhibit a direct relationship to the transcription factors HNF-4 $\alpha$  and PPAR $\gamma$ , as well as EGFR. Abbreviations: EGFR, epidermal growth factor receptor; Pdgfb, platelet-derived growth factor  $\beta$ ; PPAR $\gamma$ , peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma.

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